

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 078877
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:AARENALES:LAR
APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE
AF/C:TR0UCHANAN
S/S- MR. S. GOLDSMITH
P:GMOOSE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078877

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, FR, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION ON ZAIRE WITH FRENCH
PRESIDENT GISCARD

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF SECRETARY'S APRIL 2 CONVERSA-
TION IN PARIS WITH GISCARD ON ZAIRE.
2. SECRETARY SUMMARIZED U.S. ACTIONS CONCERNING SITUATION
THUS FAR, NOTED SPEED WITH WHICH WE HAD RESPONDED TO
MOBUTU'S REQUEST FOR NON-LETHAL AID, AND DESCRIBED CONGRES-
SIONAL CRITICISM THAT AID GENERATED. HE EXPRESSED VIGOROUS
DISAPPOINTMENT WITH INACCURACY OF INTELLIGENCE RECEIVED
FROM ZAIRE AND BLUNTLY CONDEMNED MILITARY COMPETENCE OF
FAZ. HE NOTED THIS RELUCTANCE TO FIGHT CREATED GREAT PROB-
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LEMS FOR USG WITH CONGRESS AND EVEN INSIDE EXECUTIVE
BRANCH. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO HELP A COUNTRY THAT CANNOT
HELP ITSELF? IN RESPONDING TO THIS QUESTION, HE SAID, AD-
MINISTRATION IS POINTING TO REGIONAL AND BROADER EFFECTS
IN AFRICA OF SHABA SITUATION.

3. SECRETARY CITED NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT, DISCOUNTED

REPORTS OTHER AFRICAN STATES (MOROCCO, EGYPT) MIGHT SEND TROOPS TO ZAIRE, ACKNOWLEDGED BELGIAN AND FRENCH ASSISTANCE, AND EXPRESSED VIEW ZAIRE COULD NOT HOLD OUT WITHOUT

SUPPORT. SECRETARY REPORTED HE HAD TWICE WARNED SOVIETS OF ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF ZAIRE DEVELOPMENTS. WHEN HE RAISED ISSUE IN MOSCOW, SOVIET RESPONSE WAS TOTALLY INADEQUATE, CONSISTING OF REPEATING ANGOLAN ASSURANCES OF NON-INVOLVEMENT AND STATING KATANGANS WERE NOT USING SOVIET EQUIPMENT.

4. GISCARD COMMENTED AT LENGTH ON ZAIRE IN CONTEXT OF OVERALL AFRICAN SITUATION, SEEING ZAIRE AS TEST FOR BOTH U.S. AND FRANCE. HE CLAIMED U.S. HAD BEEN RATHER INDIFFERENT TO AFRICA IN PAST 12 YEARS, WHICH SAW NEARLY HALF OF AFRICAN REGIMES MOVE TOWARD PRO-SOVIET AFFILIATION. REST COULD FOLLOW BY 1980 UNLESS WE MEET CHALLENGE. MODERATE LEADERS KNOW THAT SOVIETS WOULD PROVIDE AMPLE ARMS, LOTS OF AID AND, IF NECESSARY, CUBAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE, THUS ASSURING THEIR PERSONAL SAFETY. WEST ON OTHER HAND PROVIDES LITTLE OR NO MILITARY AID, SOME ECONOMIC AID, BUT NO TECHNICIANS OR ADVISERS. AFRICANS HAVE NEVER SHOWN MARTIAL PROWESS.

5. GISCARD SAID MOBUTU IS ZAIRE'S ONLY POSSIBLE LEADER; WITHOUT HIM COUNTRY WILL RAPIDLY FALL INTO ANARCHY. HE SHOULD NOT BE DROPPED UNLESS IT BECOMES ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN HE CANNOT SURVIVE. SOME OF THE BUSINESS INTERESTS WHICH CONTROL BELGIAN POLICY ARE TEMPTED TO FLIRT WITH KATANGA
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SOLUTION. THIS WOULD BE GROSS MISTAKE. IT IMPORTANT TO STABILIZE MILITARY SITUATION, IF ONLY FOR FEW WEEKS. FRANCE IS TRYING TO DO SO "OURSELVES". MOROCCO WILL PROBABLY SOON SEND FEW "VOLUNTEERS" AND EGYPT PERHAPS SOME AIR TRANSPORT. KING HASSAN SAID HE WILL DECIDE SOON AFTER ONE OF HIS ABLEST ADVISERS NOW IN ZAIRE RETURNS. GISCARD EXPRESSED BELIEF EVEN 200 GOOD FIGHTING MEN COULD BRING OVERNIGHT CHANGE TO MILITARY SITUATION, WHICH NOT REGULAR WAR BUT RATHER HOMEWARD MIGRATION OF KATANGANS. ONCE THEY LEAVE FORESTS AND TRY CAPTURE DEFENDED TOWNS, THEY MAY BE LESS SUCCESSFUL. WE MUST DO OUR BEST.

6. SECRETARY AGREED WE SHOULD TRY TO AVOID GIVING ANY IMPRESSION WE ARE CONSIDERING ABANDONING MOBUTU BUT WARNED SOME CONGRESSMEN MIGHT SO SPECULATE AND THE PRESS MIGHT USE SUCH COMMENTS TO MISSTATE OUR POLICY. WE WOULD HAVE PROBLEM THERE. SECRETARY ADDED WE WOULD MOVE AHEAD WITH SUPPORT FOR MOBUTU AND THAT HE WOULD FOCUS ON THIS AS SOON AS HE RETURNED TO WASHINGTON. WE WILL CONSIDER RE-

QUESTS FOR MORE PETROLEUM, RATIONS OR OTHER NON-LETHAL SUPPLIES. WE MUST BY LAW INFORM CONGRESS OF ANY SIZEABLE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE BUT WITHIN CERTAIN LIMITS WE CAN GIVE MOBUTU MORE. WILLING FIGHTERS ON GROUND ARE VITAL TO

PROVIDE TIME FOR POLITICAL SOLUTION.

8. TO SECRETARY'S QUESTION AS TO HOW HE ASSESSED NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT, GISCARD NOTED THAT ANGOLA ALSO HAS PROBLEMS AND HELD THAT IF OTHER AFRICANS, BIGGER EUROPEANS AND U.S. TOOK A STAND ANGOLA MIGHT PULL BACK FEARING HARM TO ITS OWN INTERESTS. AT THAT POINT, GISCARD SAID, HE BELIEVED NIGERIAN ROLE COULD BE GENUINELY HELPFUL. GISCARD CONCLUDED THAT WHAT IS NEEDED NOW IS TIME.

9. SECRETARY SAID THAT NIGERIAN FONMIN GARBA HAD CONFIRMED ANGOLAN LOGISTIC SUPPORT OF KATANGANS AND HAD NOTED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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IN LONG TERM ANGOLA WANTS RELATIONS WITH U.S. SECRETARY ENDED BY STATING WE HAD INFORMED ANGOLANS THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS RELATIONS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS IF THERE IS PROGRESS ON ZAIRE PROBLEM.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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APPROVED BY: S/S-SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078877

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WH FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE SENT ACTION KINSHASA, INFO LAGOS 080401Z
APR 77.

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date: 20-Nov-2001 12:00:00 am
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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